

Cracklin' Static

September 2020 Edition



**Zoom Virtual
meeting this
month
See page 4....**

SNARS NET on DMR – Tuesday 8pm
DMR Talk Group: 31328 SNARS

SNARS Treasury Closing Balances

Account as of 8/29/2020

Operating	\$7,146
Savings	\$10,377
Self Insurance	\$9,028
PayPal	\$2,019
Convention	\$4,295

Total	\$32,865
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Net Monthly	-\$273
Net YTD	\$4,783

Renewals	21
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SNARS Membership as of 8-30-2020

Extra	143	36%
General	123	31%
Technician	115	29%
Advanced	12	3%
No License	2	1%
License Expired	2	1%
Novice	1	0%
Total	398	

SNARS ARRL Members

Regular	222	56%
Life	39	10%

PRESIDENT'S VOICE

President John Byerly, N7ROJ

Email: mtnlion@gmail.com



Hello everyone! I hope all is well with you, and that in these trying times, you are keeping safe, healthy, and sane.

This President's voice is going to address something I hear from time to time and is one of the things that drives me crazy! (And yes, I know it's not a drive, it's a short putt! LOL)

"Why are the repeaters, DMR, Ham bands DEAD?"

From time to time the board gets such an inquiry. It shares the frustration of someone who has saved and purchased a radio. Very few radios are cheap, and they dent the average amateur's "Toy fund" an

appreciable amount.

You wait for it to arrive. If you are internet savvy, you might be checking the store's order status or the delivery company's tracking website excitedly. Waiting... waiting.. where IS IT!?

Then of course, it is delivered while you are busy with other things. You are excited to set it up and communicate with friends, make new ones, see who is out there. Wait a minute!! What do you MEAN I have to program this radio so it can talk and listen on the air! I don't know ANYTHING about (insert mode/band here). COVID has shut down SNARS meetings and the Ham Radio Night at the EOC on Parr. How do I DO this.

You fight and fight, and then you get the radio working with remote help from one of the many members, or someone online. SUCCESS! Let's get to it! Turn the radio on, spin the dial, maybe kerchunk the repeater to see if it's really there.

SILENCE! So, you wait.. and wait.. awww MAN! What's wrong! I want to HEAR someone talk! The repeater/band is DEAD! Why did I buy this thing?

Here is where I crawl up onto my soapbox.....

(continued on page 8)



PO BOX 7727 Reno NV 89510
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Cracklin Static Publication

Editor: Howie Holden WB2AWQ - holden7471@msn.com

Cracklin' Static is the Newsletter of, and sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society. Published the week before meetings. Opinions expressed herein are those of the editors and contributors and should not be considered as official expressions of the Club Officers, Staff or Club Members, or as endorsements by same.

Material for publication may be edited to enhance readability or to save space. We reserve the right to use whatever font size, line spacing or other tools as may be required to publish this Newsletter. **Deadline for input to the newsletter is 1500 hours on the Sunday** prior to the 1st Saturday of each month.

SNARS Wide Area Linked System

147.030 + PL 123.0	Sparks, Fernley, Fallon	Online
147.210 + PL 100.0	Reno, Sparks	Online
147.150 + PL 123.0	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
146.925 - PL 123.0	Lovelock, Fallon	Online
146.670 - PL 123.0	Winnemucca	Online
444.875 + PL 100.0	Yerington	Online
444.125 + PL 123.0	Reno Sparks	Offline

DMR Systems

444.925 + CC 1	Reno, Sparks	Online
444.825 + CC 1	Dayton, Fallon, Carson	Online
443.925 + CC 1	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
443.950 + CC 1	Incline Village	Online
442.875 + CC 1	Sparks, Fernley, Fallon	Online
442.850 + CC 1	Downtown Reno	Online
441.950 + CC 1	Fallon, Fernley	Offline

Fusion Systems

146.610 - PL 123.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
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IRLP / EchoLink Systems

147.300 + PL 123.0	Reno, Sparks	Online
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Packet / APRS

145.050 - RNO	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
145.050 - ROSE	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
144.390 - TOULON	Lovelock, Fallon	Online

Standalone Systems

147.390 + PL 100.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
443.075 + PL 123.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
927.0875 + PL 114.8	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online



Online



Offline



Not Linked

Thank you to our Sponsors/Supporters



Weekday on the SNARS Linked System

147.030 + PL 123 – Sparks/Fernley
 147.150 + PL123.0 – Lake Tahoe / Truckee
 147.210 + PL 100.0 - Reno
 444.875 + PL 100.0 - Yerington
 146.925 - 123.0 – Lovelock / Fallon
 146.67 – PL 123.0 - Winnemucca

Monday through Friday @ 12:00pm

Open to all amateur radio operators. A general informational net for the amateur radio community of Northern Nevada and Eastern California. Radio Checks and Questions are welcomed.

Nets on the SNARS Linked Systems

147.210 + 100.0 | 147.030 + 123.0 | 147.150 + 123.0
 147.670 – 123.0 | 146.925 – 123.0 | 444.875 + 100.0

ERC Net for NV and Northern CA	Monday @ 9:15pm
N. Western NV ARES Net	Thursday at 7:30pm
Northern Nevada Preppers Net	Wednesday @ 8:00PM
Hospital Net	Friday @ 10:00AM

Nets on IRLP (GSR) System

Repeater: 147.300 + 123.0

Amateur Radio Newslane	Monday - 8:00PM
Nevada Skywarn Net	Wednesday - 7:00pm
Nevada State ARES Net	Thursday - 7:00PM

Nets on Simplex/HF

Jefferson Noon Net	7.204 LSB	Daily - 12:00pm
6 Meter Net	50.350 USB	Tuesday – 8:00pm
2 Meter Weak Signal	144.250 USB	Wednesday - 8:00PM
2 Meter Simplex Net	146.500 FM	Thursday – 8:00PM
10 Meter Net	28.350 USB	Sunday – 2:00PM

SNARS Weekly DMR Net – Tuesdays
 8:00PM

SNARS Talk Group 31328

Open to Members and Guests. A general information net each week on DMR.

SNARS CALENDAR

Ham Radio Night at the REOC Wednesday, is CANCELED until further notice

SNARS Board Meeting Wednesday, Sept 9, 6:00PM
 Location and mode TBD

QCWA Nevada Chapter Sat, September 12, 11am – 12pm Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que, 4925 Kietzke Ln, Reno

Next SNARS Breakfast Meeting – October 3
Location and media mode tentative depending on Board decisions and local restrictions.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bogdan	Cirlig	K6BIB
Kyle	Mitlyng	KJ7PQI
Nicholas	Wilson	KJ7PQA
Ralph	Covington	W7SK
Fred	Sakai	KK6EOR
Thomas	Resk	KJ7PXI
Matthew	Hansen	KJ7PSM
Kelly	Dunbar	SWL
Ashley	Dunbar	SWL
Kirk	Jeffery	KB7QOD
Jennifer	Brand	KI7IRJ
Conrad	Dhondt	KI7RQP
Dan	Dhondt	KC7HBD
Aimee	Dhondt	KI7EWU
Sable	Dhondt	KE7EEE
Michael	Silva	KY7OTE

SNARS Virtual Monthly Meeting

SNARS (virtual zoom conferencing) Monthly Meeting 9-5-2020 8:00AM PDT

Topic: Nevada QSO Party (www.nvqso.com)



TO REGISTER go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpf--prT4tHdXoXP7IUMtIUQaU1LTffMRe>

Any questions, email Barry k6st@arrl.net

★ *The* ★
Nevada

QSO PARTY
RADIO PARTY ON THE AIR
OCTOBER 9 – 11, 2020

THE NAME OF THE GAME

Jim Shepherd, W6US nvjims@gmail.com

Rover, Rover, Please Come, Over...

The Nevada QSO Party is coming up in a month, and it will be a great opportunity to spend a nice weekend somewhere out in rural Nevada. There are several things that can greatly enhance your operation and score in this contest.

First of all, it is Location, Location, and Location... Virtually all of the rural counties are highly wanted by county hunters. If you pick a spot that is on or within 500' of a county line between rarer counties, you will have lots of hams trying to contact you to get both of those counties with one QSO. Every 2 county line is accessible by paved roads, however parking may be limited on the major roads. For instance, the Lander-Eureka line on I-80 has very limited shoulders. However it has frontage roads on both sides that you can access from the Dumphy exit a couple of miles to the east. There is a nice paved road on the north side, but it also does not have a shoulder that you can use. The dirt road on the south side, on the other hand, has a wide turnout at the county line that has seen use by hams over the years! Both counties are highly wanted and you will hear "Thank You for the new one..." many times during the event. Besides expeditions to these area, mobile operators can be 'Rovers' and drive to a number of different counties.

Spots where three or more counties come together are even a better spot to set up, however they tend to be a little more difficult to access. Two nearby ones are on private property, one in an active gravel pit and the other on the edge of an RV park. There is another one in Southern Nevada that is in the Nuclear Test site and Nellis Air Force bombing range, and you probably would not be able to get a permit to operate there... Several involve some amount of hiking like the Eureka-Nye-White Pine corner, and would probably be best for those with SOTA experience. There are a few that can be accessed by vehicle via dirt roads. The one 4 way spot above Carson is on a narrow road with no parking within the 500' circle from the point—You would have to drop your equipment off and park your vehicle at a wide spot further up or down the road and then setup on the hillside.

For the more casual operators, camping at one of the better fishing holes or scenic overlooks and making some contacts now and then is a great way to spend the weekend. Walker Lake has some great free campgrounds with the opportunity to see some Big Horn sheep and lots of waterfowl. The Virgin Valley Campground on the Sheldon has a hot spring fed swimming hole and lots of free camping. Every contact counts, and the more different Nevada stations that are on the air will keep everyone happy. There are lots of other places around the state like these where you can relax and make a few contacts.

The next items are antennas. Hamsticks on your vehicle do amazingly well—I've worked DX with them while driving across the desolate stretches here in Nevada. When parked, throwing out some radials

will definitely improve your signal to distant stations. Since Nevada is not covered with tall trees, wire antennas normally are a little more difficult to erect. On the upper bands you do not have to have them as high to get good performance at distances. Don't overlook putting up a simple 80 meter dipole a few feet above the ground as a NVIS cloud warmer to work most of the Nevada stations and our surrounding states. It can also be tuned on 40 meters for a similar effect. Fiberglass electric fence poles are inexpensive and make good supports for this antenna. Another good antenna is a ground mounted trap vertical like the Hustler or Buttercup that can be easily broken down into packable segments yet quickly erected with a few radials.



Having a NVIS antenna on 40, 80, and 160 will help work other stations in Nevada. Even the 'big gun' stations had very few Nevada stations in their logs as they tended to have antennas optimized for more distant contacts. Additionally, remember that repeaters can be used for contacts, and this will greatly increase Nevada contacts.

Are you are a new ham with a Technician license? This contest is for you!!! Your handheld can hit lots of repeaters, especially if you are on a mountain top or other high point. A couple of days ago there was a ham with a handheld on top of the Arc Dome south of Austin, and he was hitting the Mt. Rose repeater better than most of the stations here in the Reno area. From there, you can hit most high level repeaters all over the state, including some near Las Vegas. Also remember you can hit linked systems that will get you nearby states and even around the world... Be sure to log your contacts, and we will cover how to do that on the virtual club meeting this Saturday.

Nevada was the first state to allow FT8 contacts for its QSO Party and we are the leader in this area. The Out-Of-State winner last year had a lot of FT8 contacts in his log and that made the difference. Digital contacts are also wanted by the county hunters, and stations using RTTY, PSK, and the WSJT modes will have a definite advantage. CW is also needed in most of the counties, again there is not much activity by brass pounders in the rural areas. If you are set up to run any of these modes, remember that they score more per contact than the voice ones and will help everyone's score.

This is OUR contest, sponsored by SNARS. It basically doubled in size last year, and we hope we will see a big gain again this year. There has been a large increase in participation on other state QSO parties, and we need to have LOTS of Nevada hams on the air. Operating at home for a few hours is also very welcomed. Please send in a log as it is used to check other entries. Due to the number of different classes/modes/power categories, we handed out lots of FIRST PLACE certificates suitable for framing and hanging in your hamshack to attest to your ham radio skills.

See you on the air for the NVQSO Party!!!

SNARS LOGO ITEMS

This year we are celebrating our 50th year by providing many ways to commemorate this occasion by imprinted our 50th



Stickers \$1.00 Each



16oz Coffee Mugs \$8.00



Hats \$10.00



Club Badge \$15.00

Order at
<http://snars.org/store/badge-order>

Items are available at the monthly meetings, events or online (coming soon) <http://snars.org/store>



MIKE'S MISSIVES CHAPTER FIFTY TWO

Mike Katz, N7MSK

Low Power (QRP) Operation

While many amateurs are allowed to run up to 1500 watts, there is a growing interest in low power operation. Commonly referred to as "QRP", individuals who find this aspect of the hobby challenging, enjoy building or "homebrewing" their own radios and receivers. There are many ham's who have made contact with others around the world using only a few watts of power, in some cases milliwatts!

The most popular mode for QRP operation is CW (Morse Code) due to its ability to be heard under extreme band conditions and low signal strength. The rigs sometimes can be very small in size, some have built transmitters inside of tuna fish can's (tuna removed) , while others have used "Altoids" tins ! Some of these radios are really creative, and can be taken just about anywhere, on camping trips, hiking, bike riding etc. Many awards are issued with the "QRP" endorsement, showing that the operator was using limited power and therefore making it harder (more challenging) on him/herself !

source: magiclink.com

SHORT TAKES (By Jim Shepherd W6US)

Ham Radio Night, First Wednesdays, have been discontinued until we can safely have meetings.

Contest Calendar

The ARRL September VHF contest is a good one for all hams to try and work on the 12th to 14th. There is a FM category where you can get on top of a mountain for the day and make simplex contacts with lots of other hams with just a handheld or other 5 watt radio. The exchange is your callsign and 4 digit grid zone locator. Rules are at <http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf> For the more adventurous, the ARRL EME contest for the 2.3 GHz and up bands is September 12 & 13 when the moon is up... One of the highlights of the state QSO

parties is the Washington Salmon Run. It is September 19-20 and the prizes are a package of Smoked Salmon!!! Go to <http://salmonrun.wwdxc.org/> for the full information. You can get the full information about other contests at <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

DX

There are only a couple of listed DXpeditions this month and they may be cancelled. There are lots of other stations who might be on the air from their home QTH operating as they are in the same situation that we are with Covid19. More information can be found at <https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

NAME THAT RIG

(Answer on page 13)

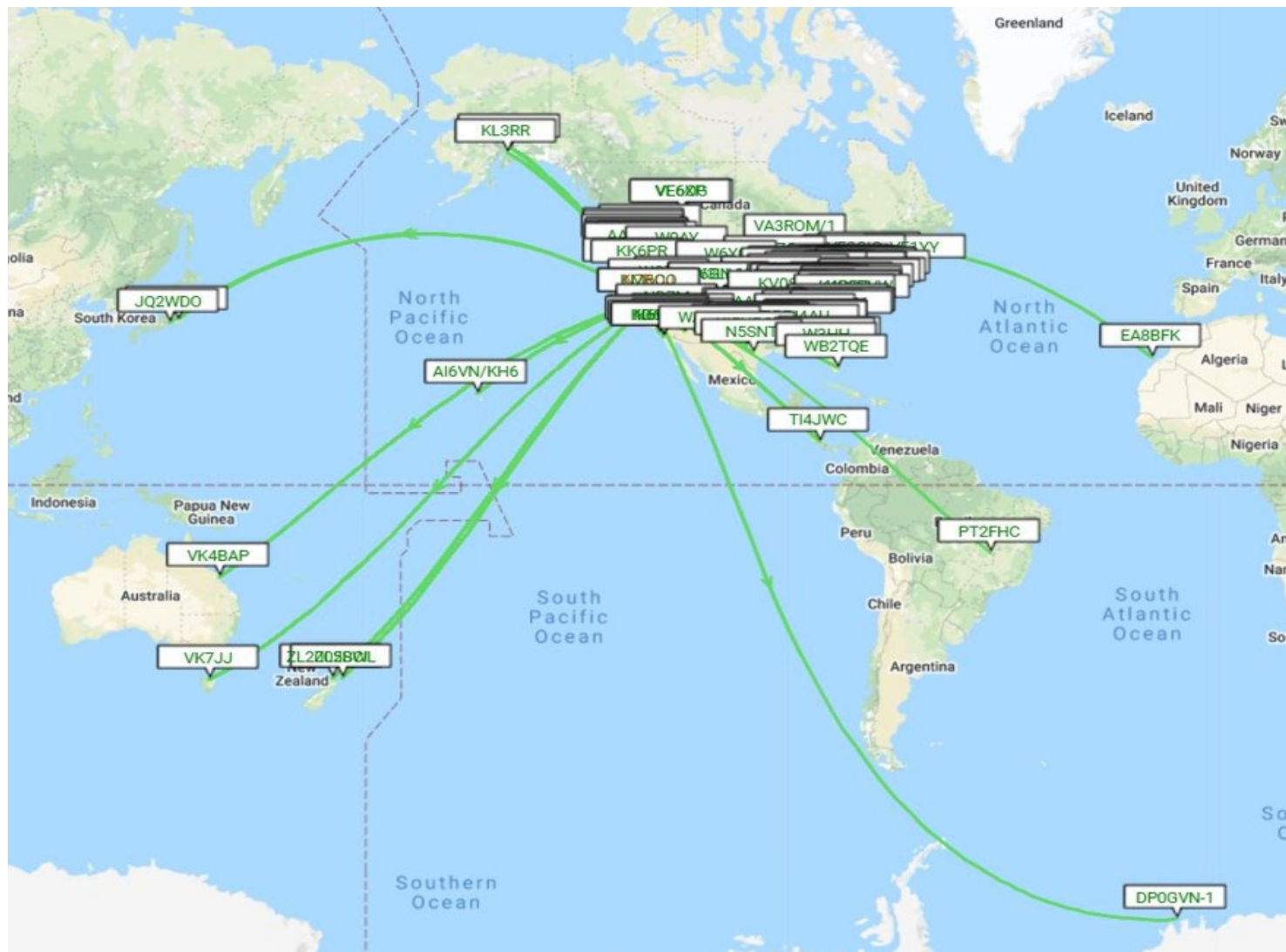


PRESIDENT'S VOICE (continued from page 1)

The radio has a button on it. It's called the PTT or Push to Talk button! You HOLD IT DOWN and give your callsign. Maybe add "Listening" or "Looking for a radio check" or even "Is anyone out there?" and then let that PTT button go. It's absolutely amazing the results you may have!

There are MANY of us who listen to the systems all the time. In my situation, during working hours I rarely have time to talk but I am listening and will respond if I can.

HF isn't dead. I have a 1 watt WSPR station running all the time on 30 meters on a really junky vertical antenna. Look at the last 2 weeks, which is all the data I can pull.



HF operators groan about dead bands. Isn't it amazing how GREAT they become on a contest weekend? That's because people are actually TRANSMITTING!

Folks, what I am getting at is get on the air. Key up. Throw your call out. See who answers. Doesn't matter the band or the mode. Give it a shot before you drive yourself mad with how quiet the airwaves are.

That's all from the top of the soapbox.

Stay safe, have fun, generate some RF!

73 John/N7ROJ

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)

JOTA is an annual event in which Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world speak to each other by means of Amateur (ham) Radio. The world's largest Scout - Ham Radio event promoting friendship and global citizenship! October 16th - 18th, 2020.



When Scouts want to meet young people from another country, they usually think of attending a World Jamboree. But few people realize that each year more than a million Scouts and Guides "get together" over the airwaves for the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA). During the 2014 event, worldwide Scouting participation included 1.1 million Boy Scouts and 200,000 Girl Guides/Girls Scouts, for a total participation of over 1.3 million--the largest Scouting event in the world.

Modern technology offers Scouts the exciting opportunity to make friends in other countries without leaving home. JOTA is an annual event in which Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world speak to each other by means of Amateur (ham) Radio. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared via radio waves. Since 1958 when the first Jamboree-on-the-Air was held, millions of Scouts have met each other through this event. Many contacts made during JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between Scout troops that have lasted many years. With no restrictions on age or on

the number of participants, and at little or no expense, JOTA allows Scouts to contact each other by ham radio. The radio stations are operated by licensed amateur radio operators. Many Scouts and leaders hold licenses and have their own stations, but the majority participate in JOTA through stations operated by local radio clubs and individual radio amateurs. Some operators use television or computer-linked communications.

More Info:

<http://www.arrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air-jota>

This year, we could support the Scouts with "Jamboree on the Air" either in person with social distancing, and or remote on the radio or via virtual teleconferencing. Please take a few minutes to email me mail to: k6st@arrl.net as to your interest. I am sure SNARS can positively influence some scouts to become engaged in ham radio.



73,

Barry K6ST k6st@arrl.net

Nevada Section Youth Coordinator

ARRL (American Radio Relay League)

www.arrl.org The national association for amateur radio



W7SSB's FUN STUFF

EDITOR's NOTE: *Don's column will appear when he has time to send me stuff. He's been a busy man of late (that's good!). So enjoy when the opportunity arises.*

Rufus P. Turner W3LF

First Black Radio Station Operator, 1926

Rufus Paul Turner (December 25, 1907 – March 25, 1982) was an academic, engineer, and author who published (books) on semiconductor devices, technical writing style, and poet-novelist Charlotte Turner Smith. After three decades working with electronic devices – including developing the first practical transistor radio – he earned a doctorate in literature at age 52 and became an English professor. He wrote over 40 books and 3000 articles during his six-decade career.



Born in 1907 in Houston, Texas, Turner began working with crystal diodes at age 15 and published his first article on radio electronics at age 17. He attended Armstrong Tech in Washington, D.C.^[2] In 1925, still a teenager, he built what was then the world's smallest radio set, and was awarded the second commercial radio operator's license in the third district. His station, W3LF, was "the first radio station licensed to a black broadcaster in the U.S." By 1928, he operated W3LF as a 15-watt station on Franklin Street NW in Washington, D.C. He also operated a station for his neighborhood church.

Read the rest of Rufus Paul Turner's amazing, impactful story here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rufus_P._Turner

Learn About Your Hobby and Its Future!

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/telecom/wireless/the-uncertain-future-of-ham-radio>

One Family's History In Amateur Radio From The Early Days to Present (This is a very good heart warming story that a son put together).

There are thousands of stories like this in our hobby's history! Please read<https://ashevillejunction.com/calling-cq-an-amateur-radio-geek-in-the-1920s-and-beyond/>

Great website for new product reviews and what's going on worldwide in the shortwave listening and amateur radio space !

www.swling.com

ANYONE CAN GET A HAM LICENSE THESE DAYS.....



He mainly operates the digital modes.....

QRPer.com

has a link to all the back issues of 73 magazine

<https://qrper.com/2011/12/73-magazine-now-available-as-free-download/comment-page-1/>



73,
Don
W7SSB

MORE FIELD DAY DOINGS



Editor's note: I will run this column as long as FD efforts by SNARS members come to light.

FIELD DAY 2020 by Dave Thompson AG7TX (Continued from last month....)

Part two

I tuned the bands a little while eating my supper. I heard a ZL station (New Zealand) calling and talking to other operators. He was working the pile-up well. During a pause in the action, I answered his call and he heard me! So, I worked my first New Zealand station the first night out.

After supper, I stepped outside to look at the sunset and stretch. This also gave Sera a chance to exercise a little and relieve herself before we settled in for the evening.

Friday morning started early. I woke with the opening of morning twilight and stepped outside to look at the morning sky. It was cool, so I was happy I brought a heavy sweatshirt. Sera looked up at me as I opened the door and went back to sleep. I can only imagine what she must have thought.

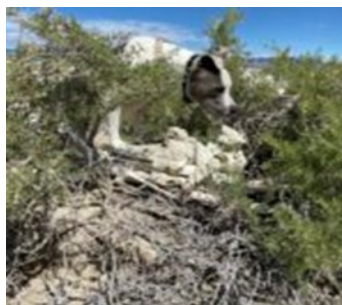
I made some coffee to help me wake and listened to the radio a little. There was not much traffic, but I heard a few stations chatting, particularly on the 80m band. That is a noisy band much of the day, but it is often quiet in the morning. I heard the usual Asian broadcast stations on the upper part of the 40m band. I cannot tell if they are Chinese or Japanese from the language. I do not know the differences well enough to identify them.

We had a bite of breakfast and then I started the last of my setup. I put up the military mast, which is a repurposed support for military camouflage. My kit is about 32ft tall and is raised by pivoting on a spike driven into the ground. I guy off two of the three lines, walk up the mast (with additional guys and a pulley to raise the wire antenna), then walk out the third guy line and tie it off. I can then walk the three guy points to tension and straighten up the mast.

With the mast erected and secure, I raised the 80m OFCD antenna. I checked the antenna for resonance and it was not working correctly. I made a couple of adjustments but could not get it working. So I did what any intelligent operator would do. Sera and I walked down to Greg's place to confer with my smarter brother.

Wes and Eric were already there, visiting a little. When I described my problem, Wes said "it is your coaxial cable." I was fortunate that Greg had a 100ft run of spare cable along, so I took that and Sera and returned to camp for me to try again.

That fixed my problem. The antenna does not have great SWR, but it is certainly good enough to operate.

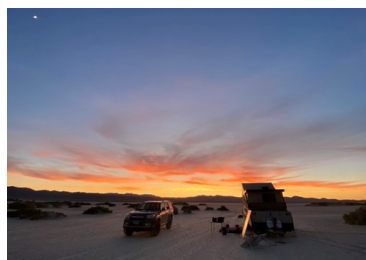


Sera enjoyed hunting these hummocks all around the campsite. She ranged over the entire group of them and only once ventured out into the open area of the lake.

The remainder of Friday was spent playing a little radio, resting, walking Sera through the hummocks, and visiting with our friends. In the late afternoon, a meeting was called to partake of some QSO-enhancing elixir made by and provided by Greg. We also spent time relaxing and shooting the bull.

Sufficiently elixed, Sera and I headed back to camp to make a little supper and settle in for the evening. I walked her to the north edge of the hummocky-area so she could exercise and burn off some energy. The walk is always good for me as well. I had done a lot of heavy lifting the last few days in preparation for the trip and in the morning wrangling the military mast and antenna.

As the afternoon waned into evening, I stepped back for a few moments to reflect on the beauty of the location. Sera continued her hunt for the local rodents while I ruminated a bit. I also just enjoyed the view and listening to her chuff and run about.



This is my campsite Friday evening before Field Day. I really like the Dry Lake area. The moon is visible in the upper left.

I decided to test the tiny shower in my camper, so I turned on the water heater and assembled the shower curtain. There is not much room in the latrine and it feels even more claustrophobic with the curtain installed.

Unfortunately, I did not wait long enough for hot water, but it was not well-water cold. I was able to get wet, soapy, and rinsed without using much water. I am really spooky about water use in the desert, but it was so good to be clean.

The shower works.

Saturday morning came, with much the same routine as Friday morning only without the work. I rose, started water for coffee, and stepped outside to greet the morning Sun. I made some breakfast and poured most of my bacon fat over Sera's kibbles. Yes, she is spoiled — just a little. We got out of the camper and walked the hummocks, giving Sera a chance to hunt and burn off her morning

Continued next page.....



This is the view of our campsite in the middle of Dry Lake. My camp is almost directly below the drone.

energy. We visited our fellow operators' camps and enjoyed the companionship.

A little before 1100h local, I started listening for calls. I worked CW mode for quite a while. I am not very fast, but given enough repetitions I can get a callsign and exchange. Then I can send my callsign and see if I can make the exchange.

I do not make a lot of contacts this way because it takes time to get the information before making the call. But it is a way for me to learn Morse Code and so it is worth the investment.

I worked CW until my brain rebelled and switched over to phone. I could have set up on a frequency and ran the frequency, but I was having fun just searching-and-pouncing. I worked phone until I broke for a bite of lunch.

The wind was coming up, as forecast. I knew it was going to be windy. I did not know how windy it might be. Well... it got WINDY... and DUSTY. The wind blew so hard that I stepped out of the camper to check the guy lines on the mast. I walked the anchors and tightened up the taut-line hitches I had tied. I also made sure (I thought) that the solar panels and other equipment outside were properly lashed down. Then I went back to operating.

I cannot remember if it was lunch or supper, but I received an invite to share a meal with the group at Greg's Place. I had not expected a communal meal, but I did have an extra bottle of Cabernet along with me so that was my contribution to the event. Again, it was good food and fellowship.

It was also hot, particularly in the small camper. I decided to fire up the generator and run the air conditioner a little to keep my camper cool. Sera was panting and I was sweating, so it seemed the thing to do.

But the generator would not start. Fortunately, Greg came up and gave me hand diagnosing the problem. After futzing about for a bit, he suggested I check the oil. I had changed the oil before the trip and was fairly sure I had put enough in it, but we had eliminated everything else and the Honda does have an oil sensor.

It was a D'Oh moment for me. The oil level was just low enough to trigger to the low oil sensor and prevent the engine from starting. With the oil topped off (yes, I had some), the engine started and so did the air conditioner. I was grateful for my friend and for the cool air. So I went back to operating.

I worked until about 2300h local then called it a night. With the falling of the Sun, the wind fell as well. I slept well as did Sera.

(The final part of Dave's Field Day saga will appear in the October CS. Stay tuned.....)

John Byerly N7ROJ's Field Day

I was very excited to participate in Field Day this year. I had purchased all the stuff I needed to be effective and comfortable for the weekend. I was all ready to go.

Then COVID hit. Okay, no problem. I can do this on my own. I will scope out a spot, and set up and support the club's FD effort all on my own!

I have my trusty mCHF clone radio, the 150 watt solar panel, lifepo4 batteries, and HF silent solar controller. I have my spot picked out, and a wide range tuner with my portable dipole setup. Have enough FOOD and Beer to make W6US jealous. I am GOOD! The telephone rings, and I find out that my spot has been CLOSED and I can't go there, the NIGHT before I am supposed to go set up. Silently I curse, and decide I will not be thwarted. I am STILL going to run solar QRP on the dipole set-up even if it's in my own damn back yard!



Saturday morning I give up on going into the field. FINE! I start to set up the station in the yard. I ignore the antennas all set up at the house and start my FD Dipole setup. I grab the center point mast, mount the balun/center on the heavy duty mast (one of the ones that were being sold by the kite guy at last NVCON) and start to push it up into the sky. Beautiful! The universe might just smile on me! All of my pre-tested stuff is working great! I put up the end supports and I have my FD portable inverted vee antenna ready to rock.



I set up the solar panel, the controller, and connect it to the Bioenno batteries, Quick check to ensure I don't let the magic smoke out, and I hook up the mCHF. I power the mess on and expect to be rewarded with the dulcimer tones of the 20 meter digital portion of the band.

SILENCE!! Oh what the hell man!!?? Draw a breath, consider the first beer. Too early.. check. Take a drink of water and start looking at why I have no RX. Patiently I go through the steps of checking my antenna and discover that my cable I just checked is bad. I grimace and pull out another cable, hook it up and start to giggle at the beautiful sounds coming from my radio's speaker. 45 minutes to show time. Perfect!

I'm going to really have a good time and my operating location is 10 feet from my BBQ! Things are looking up! I fire up the laptop that I use for field digital work, start WSJT-X and see a message that I need to update the software. Now, I digress.. after all the setbacks already, I should have whispered "Go to hell" and just run the "outdated" version, but Noooooooo. I go and click the box to go the website and download the latest version. I go through the simple installation keeping my JUST TESTED settings. The setup completes and I start the software so I can ensure I am all ready to go for the start of Field Day in 20 minutes.

I am "Rewarded" with the software starting, and an error message saying "Hamlib cannot initialize your radio". Beer is looking GREAT about now. NOT playing radio. I fight and fight with the software, and find that I CAN do digital, I have lost my CAT remote control of the radio. AKA Hand logging of the frequency. FINE!

I spend many hours enjoying operations and forget the pain of getting here. What a blast. Even backyard solar QRP was more fun than I had had in weeks. Great operating, hand logging frequency. great BBQ, outstanding beer. What a fun weekend.

3 days after FD, I learn on a mailing group that they blew up the Ham-Lib for my radio and to go back to the version I had updated FROM IN THE FIRST PLACE!!

I hope this inspires you to try field day, or ANY field operations. They can be maddening, but EXTREMELY rewarding! Fight though even if it's your own back yard!

73, N7ROJ

FUN STUFF FOR SEPTEMBER

September has five ARRL/NCJ sponsored contests, which qualify for the Gavel award, shown in BOLD. There are two contests aimed at DXers, the All Asian and All African parties. Need some Asian or African stuff? There are also TEN (count em) state QSO parties: CO, TN, OH, TX, AL, IA, WI, NJ, NH and ME! See the ARRL Contest calendar for dates of those.

5 Sep 0000 to 6 Sep 2359 3.5-28 All Asian DX Contest, Phone Ph RS, 2-digit age www.jarl.org/English

12 Sep 0000 to 13 Sep 2359 2.3 GHz + ARRL EME Contest CW Ph Dig Signal report www.arrrl.org/eme-contest

12 Sep 1800 to 14 Sep 0300 50 + ARRL September VHF Contest CW Ph Dig www.arrrl.org/september-vhf

13 Sep 0000 to 13 Sep 0400 3.5-14 North American Sprint, CW www.ncjweb.com

19 Sep 0600 to 20 Sep 2359 10 GHz + ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest CW Ph Dig www.arrrl.org/10-ghz-up

19 Sep 1200 to 20 Sep 1200 1.8-28 All Africa International DX Contest CW Ph www.sarl.org.za

20 Sep 0000 to 20 Sep 0400 3.5-14 North American Sprint, RTTY Dig www.ncjweb.com

26 Sep 0000 to 27 Sep 2359 3.5-28 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY Dig www.cqwwrtty.com

See <http://www.arrrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2020/september%202020%20Corral.pdf> for a complete list of contests.

If you're not into contests, there's always DX to chase! We're still seeing the effects of Covid-19, so the list is still small. Here's the list some of the rarer DX operations going on in September. Nothing terribly exotic but nice stuff to grab. The DX locations are looking a bit better, but I'd still check to see which ones actually take place:

Aug 24 to Sep 20	Greenland OX3LX
Sep 04 to Sep 18	Malta 9H3TI
Sep 06 to Sep 17	Albania ZA
Sep 15 to Sep 23	Faroe Is OY
Sep 24 to Sep 27	Svalbard JW
Sep 28 to Oct 17	Niue E6AM

Check <https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html> for updates on DXpeditions!

RENO QRP SLOW SPEED CW NET

NET REMINDER RENO QRP SLOW SPEED CW NET

Keep in touch with your QRP buddies on the NET

NEXT NET SESSION WILL BE TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1,
2020 TIME 10:00 AM

Target frequency is 7.045 MHz If not in use, if busy search somewhere near that frequency.

The following should always be in your report.

NAME RST LOCATION RIG POWER ANTENNA.

REMEMBER TO INCLUDE RST IN YOUR REPORT

Feel free to add something else in your exchange.

Take some time to report RST for other OP's or anything else that comes to mind.

Sharing information about you and your equipment will accomplish two things.

First It gives you and everybody else practice sending and copying.

Second It is nice to spend time on the air with your friends. Consider this a QRP meeting on the air.

Relax and have some airtime fun with your friends.

73/72

Ed/WD7Y

NAME THAT RIG (from page 7)

I'd be surprised if anyone actually guessed this pair. An early offering from Icom (Icom-Inoue to be exact as it was known at the time), the **IC-700R** and **IC-700T** were designed as a receive/transmit pair, but the intent may have been for beginning hams to purchase the **IC-700R** receiver first. You see, the **IC-700T** needed the **IC-700R** to work! The **IC-700R** was an all solid state receiver with some 25 transistors and about a dozen diodes, covering 80 through 10 meters in 10 band segments, with good selectivity and sensitivity. The **IC-700T** used the **IC-700R** VFO to cover the same ranges (thus the pair transceived) and was mostly solid state except for the driver and finals. The tubes used were 12BY7A driver, and 6146s, or 52001 finals. Input was 150W PEP max. This pair debuted in 1967, and was only available from Icom's sole importer, Lowe Electronics, Ltd, in England. There were probably very few in the USA because of this. The **IC-700T** was Icom's only ham oriented radio, a so-called hybrid, that used tubes for the power end of things, unlike their counterparts Yaesu and Kenwood, who offered hybrids for a number of years.

DID YOU DO FIELD DAY THIS YEAR?

If you did, and it wasn't written up in either the Field Day CS or on the Field Day page herein, and you'd like to have your results published, let me know! Send me any photos, station description, comments, etc., and I'll make sure you get recognized on these pages! Send your stuff to: wb2awq@arrrl.net

EMPLOYMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

DX ENGINEERING, a ham radio store <https://www.dxengineering.com/> is planning to open a place of business in Sparks, NV area, possibly co-located near the sister company Summit Racing. They are looking for employees to hire. If interested contact tom@k5rc.com

TECH COMMITTEE UPDATE

MR-Access Road Thu Apr 25 2019 11:07:05



SNARS REPEATER STATUS - September 2020, work performed this summer.....

MT ROSE - Installed new Telewave TPRD-1556 duplexers and peaked the tuning to achieve <100dB of isolation. Realigned the receive antenna (Telewave ANT150D3) at the top of the big tower; it had been knocked out of its usual orientation from high winds and ice last winter. The two folded dipole elements were also misaligned respective to each other; thereby, effecting gain and radiation pattern. Also replaced an intermittent jumper that feeds the Telewave ANT150F6 transmit antenna that's on the lower deck. An attempt was made to duplex into the ANT150D3 antenna on top of the tower, but for some reason, there something at the site that is causing desense into the single antenna; so, the 147.150 repeaters remains to operate on split antennas; however, there is no detectable desense in the split antenna configuration. The transmit antenna is higher gain and is mounted lower than the receive antenna; so, their respective radiation patterns are different, resulting in noticeable differences between receive and transmit coverage. Overall, the performance is significantly better with all of the above changes.

OPHIR - Replaced defective Ubiquiti 5.8GHz microwave link feeding internet to Davidson that provides internet for the DMR and DSTAR equipment. The new link is also Ubiquiti, but is an AirFiber24 on 24GHz. Thanks to Dave Metts for improving our internet speed; we're no longer on a T1 with media converters, its native Ethernet on a fiber connection fed from Dave's building! We also have some communications grade batteries that are being donated by Dave Metts to replace the ancient and weak batteries currently at Ophir. The Board authorized purchase of a brand new rectifier for Ophir to charge the batteries; both batteries and rectifier will be getting installed soon! The 146.610 duplexers were also retuned and eliminated interference that the repeater had been experiencing. The 145.050 RNO packet node appears to not be functioning; with thanks to Steve, N7KP, a spare VHF Maxtrac is being prepared to replace the old Motorola Micor just in case that's the problem. There are guy wires on the towers at Ophir that still need to be repaired before winter!

MT DAVIDSON - Replaced defective Ubiquiti 5.8GHz microwave link to Ophir that provides internet for the DMR and DSTAR equipment at Davidson. The new link is also Ubiquiti, but is an AirFiber24 on 24GHz. It was also discovered that the UPS that powers the DMR and DSTAR equipment was nonfunctional, likely due to lightning; both DMR and DSTAR power systems are temporarily plugged into the wall until a DC power solution can be implemented. Both DMR and DSTAR systems at Davidson are once again operational. Davidson also had an issue with a very large rat that had taken up residence in the building; there was a large hole that had been chewed through the eve of the building, right above the cable bridge that was sealed up. There was also an attic access inside the building that was sealed up to keep the rat outside where he belongs. There was quite a mess inside the building that had to be cleaned up!

VIRGINIA PEAK - Thanks to Steve, N7KP, we have a spare link radio ready to replace the "whining" radio that links Virginia Peak over to Toulon. The existing Motorola Maxtrac is only putting out +14dBm, so it's surprising that the link to Toulon is functioning at all! The Toulon link radio will get replaced on the next visit - which will be very soon. The 147.030 MASTR II repeater was checked out after experiencing intermittent loss of receiver sensitivity; but, nothing was found. The duplexer tuning was touched up and yielded a few more dB of isolation. Additionally, a single pass/notch cavity was installed on the 145.090 packet node since it was desensing the 147.030 repeater receiver. The cavity passes 145.090 and provides 33dB of rejection on 147.630; this should help minimize the interference.

TOULON PEAK - Once the replacement link radio is installed at Virginia Peak, traffic from Reno through the 146.925 repeater will once again be crystal clear and without the "whine".

WINNEMUCCA MTN - The yagi antenna that links the 146.670 repeater on Winnemucca Mtn to Toulon was removed from the NDF tower and installed on the telephone pole below the repeater antenna. The installation on the tower was only temporary because of not having appropriate hardware to install on the telephone pole. No update to provide on the status of the link to the Elko Club.

LOBDELLE PEAK - Old and unused antennas and feed lines were removed from the telephone pole that holds the antennas for the 444.875 repeater; link to Mt. Rose; and the 145.050 packet node.

DMR SITES - As noted above, connectivity was restored between Ophir and Davidson with a new 24GHz microwave link. The Davidson DMR and DSTAR repeaters are back on the air and operational. I would encourage those who have DMR capability to participate in the nets that occur on the SNARS talk group. Check SNARS.org for more information on these nets.

If there are any questions regarding any of the sites, feel free to contact me at w7ded@sbcglobal.net.

73,

Pat, W7DED

ARES NEWS

This summer Washoe County ARES held our first online ARRL EC-001 Introduction to Emergency Communication course. Many thanks to John N3JWM and David AF6MN Training Instructors for putting together the course and putting on the course.

Congratulations to the first students of this course: Daniel KI7KGO, Dave AE7EF, Elisabeth KC7LIZ, Edmund KJ7DHY, Brian K5NEV, Judith KE6GIW, Gary KJ7HMY, Diana KJ7GVY, Kevin W7NHP, John KJ7IXG, David AG7TX, Brian KJ6EAC.

This course used to be taught by Doug KA7FOO and Bill AE7OX over the years. After Doug left the area, John, and David volunteered to take the class, and both became certified EC-001 Instructors. Because of COVID19 they could not hold classroom training, so they teamed up to create the online course. The course also included Saturday morning zoom meetings and presentations. Congratulations fellas!

Standby for the announcement of the next EC-001 Class. Just holding an Amateur Radio License and a radio does not prepare you for emergency communications.

Washoe County ARES Emergency Coordinator,
Bob Miller, WA6MTY
WA6MTY@wcares.us





Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2020, approx. 6:00 PM
At Chin Chin plus phone

1. Call to order and roll call at 6:00 PM

Board of Directors:

Anthony Marcin, W7XM	P	Barry Bettman, K6ST	P	John Miller, N7JDM	P
Bill Jones, AE7OX	P	John Byerly, N7ROJ	P	Wes Vick, KG7QXE	P
Jim Shepherd, W6US	P	Doug Edmondo, W7DBE	P		

Guests in Attendance: There were no guests in attendance.

2. Approval of Minutes - Discussion/Action

The board approved the July 8, 2020 meeting minutes

3. Approval of Agenda - Discussion/Action

The board approved the agenda for the August 12th 2020 meeting

4. Reports

A. President's Report: Still meeting remotely, no word on when we will be able to hold a large gathering. Working with Pat to repair various repeaters in the system. Many thanks to Pat his wife and son for taking care of the mess at the Davidson site.

B. Secretary Report

- a. Membership Status: 409
- b. Nothing else to report

C. Treasurer

- a. Net Monthly \$1,953 Net YTD \$5,056, Renewals 48 Received \$150 back from Jim Shepherd.
- b. Financial Report – as of July 31, 2020: Checking: \$8,971 Savings: \$10,137 Paypal: \$1,187
Conv: \$4,295 Self-Ins: \$8,548

D. Technical Team– See prior

E. Control Operators/Trustee -

No status, still working on a control operators class.

F. Events:

- a. No status

G. Education & Youth Activities

- a. No status

H. Noon Net Noon Net Manager, continuing to work with net control operators.

5. Old Business

- A. Members Only Website – Update. Still working on the site
- B. By Laws – at the last monthly meeting there was a question on voting age. Discussed adding the age requirement for voting to section 1.1 and deleting from section 4 to clarify the requirement.

6. New Business:

- A. The board discussed and approved buy two SAMLEX chargers for the Ophir site (Moving the old ones to Davidson). The cost is \$449.49 each.

7. Public Comments: there were no public comments

8. Adjournment - Action

- A. Next Meeting: September 9, 2020. Location TBD
- B. Call For Adjournment and adjourned at 1945.